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IPFW hosts Indiana's largest robotics tournament for kids



STAFF REPORTS

Friday, 04 December 2009 08:12

The FIRST® LEGO® League championship tournament is always a spirited experience at Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW). This year will be particularly festive as FLL celebrates the 10th anniversary of the state-wide championship tournament. Paul Gudonis, president of FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), will present an award to IPFW and ITT, corporate sponsor since 2000, for their ongoing participation and support.

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Indiana children ages 9 to 14 are among the record 160,000 students around the world who have risen to the 2009 FIRST®LEGO® League (FLL) "Smart Move" Challenge. To successfully complete the Challenge, teams of young people must build and program a LEGO MINDSTORMS® robot to explore one of the most relevant topics facing the world today: how can we transform our system of transportation? Teams will consider many modes of transportation, even beyond their daily routine, and streamline them by making smart moves to help access people, places, goods, and services in the safest, most efficient way. Challenge missions include planning efficient routes and sequences, climbing steep ramps, responding to changing conditions, traveling along a narrow bridge with no guardrails, and enduring crash tests. Through hands-on experience and working in teams, children have a chance to explore a real-world issue through research and robotic programming to gain an appreciation for and interest in science and technology.

Of the 145 Indiana teams who competed at one of six qualifying tournaments, 48 have advanced to the state championship tournament at the IPFW Gates Sports Center on Saturday, Dec. 12. The day will start with an opening ceremony from 8:10 to 8:30 a.m. featuring IPFW Chancellor Michael Wartell, Paul Gudonis, and an ITT representative. The public is welcome to view "robot action" from 11:45 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the day's events will conclude with an awards ceremony at 4:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The Indiana championship team will advance to a national invitational.

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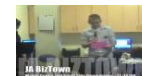
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